

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SENDING INFORMATION ON AN EXTRANET

Related Applications

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This application claims priority from provisional application serial number 60/202,456 of Gaddis, filed May 6, 2000, ^{now abandoned,} which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. *h*

This application is a continuation in part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/597,853 of Gaddis, filed June 20, 2000, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Background

A. Technical Field

This application relates to a method and system providing a single, symmetric path for forward and return traffic between two points on a network.

B. Background of the Invention

i. The Need for High Quality Internet Service

In certain situations, it is desirable to send data over a network with a high priority and with a guaranteed maximum transit time. For example, certain data may be needed in real time or may be of high importance. Currently, certain conventional network protocols (such as the Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) protocol) contain provisions for indicating a "level of service" that particular transmitted data is to receive – a capability referred to as Quality of Service (QoS). Users pay premiums to obtain higher levels of service in an ATM network. It would be desirable to send data over the Internet with the same type of guarantees. Unfortunately, the design of the Internet does not provide for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to cooperate in a way that would result in performance guarantees for the users of the Internet.

ii. Barriers to the Deployment of Hardware Solutions

One possible way to accomplish this goal of high quality service on the Internet would be to upgrade the routers used to route Internet traffic. Unfortunately, the deployment of Quality of Service (QoS) capable routers end-to-end in the Internet would require a massive investment.